



Air Force Memorial Dedication Remarks
Saturday, 14 October 2006
Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. Mr. Perot, thank you for your tireless efforts to get us here. Partner, Chief Moseley, Chief McKinley, you are terrific. Thank you.

To the Senators and Congressmen out there, thank you for being here. You honor us with your presence. To members of the joint team, thank you for being here. To all that came to share this honor with us, thank you. The Air Force leadership teams, past and present, from across our nation, visitors, and from across the world. What a great day to be associated with the United States Air Force. What a moment.

What a moment in time it is to have as our Commander in Chief a former Air Force fighter pilot and Airman. It is Barbara's and my honor to be with you today in the company of Airmen such as these and such as are represented out here. And of the Medal of Honor recipients here today representing all of the Airmen, brave men and women all, for whom this memorial is dedicated.

This memorial soars. It soars in space and in the imagination. It is a soaring tribute to American Airmen of past, present and future. It honors Airmen of the past who risked and gave their lives. It honors Airmen of today serving in close battle as our strategic guardians and as pilots of the air bridge on which our services rely. It honors the families of all Airmen whose support is vital to our successes.

These three spires echo our values -- integrity, service and excellence. They also echo our components -- active, Guard and Reserve. As well as our mission -- air, space and cyberspace.

This memorial is a brilliant symbol of freedom and the spirit of flight. We are honored that it joins the great memorials in our nation's capital area.

Let us remember that yes, this memorial honors, but it also inspires. It inspires especially the young, the Airmen of our future yet to be. Future Airmen will live the great future of the Air Force in fantastic adventures in which dreams are made, in domains we only begin to understand. These youngsters with us even today will again try to reach out and touch the face of God.

My heartfelt thanks to all who labored in the design and the construction; to all who worked such that they could give; to all who are here today to honor and to be honored.

Welcome, congratulations, and a salute to all of you. God bless this great nation, which gave us the United States Air Force.